

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, all the claims pending in the application, stand rejected. Claims 4 and 5 are considered to be allowable if the objectionable language is clarified and if placed into independent form incorporating all of the limitations of the independent and intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to further recite a second switch that selectively connects to (1) the ends of each feedback resistor and (2) the output of the operational amplifier. Claim 2 has been placed into independent form. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 2 alone, since it refers to a second switch but contains limitations that are applicable only to claim 2 (the series resistance). Applicant also has added new claim 6, which includes the limitations of claim 4 but depends from claim 1, as amended to correct the indefiniteness noted in claim 1. New claim 7, which is claim 5 but dependent on claim 6, also has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner has identified phrases in claims 1 and 3 as a basis for the rejection. The Examiner also has kindly identified language that would be an acceptable substitute for the objectionable language. Applicant has substantially adopted those suggestions and, further clarified the language. Notably, these amendments have been included in independent claims 1 and 2. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now clear and unambiguous, and fully compliant with Section 112.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al (4,673,807). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

As to claim 1, this rejection is overcome by the addition to the claim of a recitation of a second switch that is connected to (1) the ends of each feedback resistor and (2) the output of the operational amplifier. By the Examiner's own admission, Kobayashi does not teach a second switch. As subsequently explained with regard to claim 3, there is no teaching in any of the prior art of a connection of the output of the operational amplifier to a second switch.

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Claim 2 has been placed into independent form and has been clarified in order to define the serial resistor feature of the invention, as disclosed at pages 10 and 11, with regard to the operation of resistances RS_{n-1} and RS_{n-2} in permitting a discharge of accumulated charge and permitting a shortened sampling interval.

The Examiner's analysis of the original claim limitation may have been misled by the lack of clarity in this claim. Clearly, Kobayashi et al does not teach the structure of the serially arranged resistances as now claimed.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al (4,673,807) in view of the Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

As to claim 3, the claim originally depended from claims 1 or 2. Claim 2 has been placed into independent form and claim 3 is now dependent only on claim 2. Claim 3 would be allowable for the reasons already given for claim 2.

Moreover, the teachings in Fig. 5 to which the Examiner refers as AAPA, are distinctly different from the claimed arrangement because there is no connection by the second switch in Fig. 5 to the output of the operational amplifier. Such connection is expressly set forth in claim 3.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 and 5 have been found to contain allowable subject matter but are rejected because of their dependency from claims having indefinite language. Applicant has corrected the indefinite language in parent claim 2 and has further clarified parent claim 3. Claims 4 and 5 should be considered allowable because of the patentability of their parent claims and their original language.

New claim 6 has been added which incorporates the limitations of original claim 1, as amended to correct the indefinite language, as well as the limitations of original claim 4. New claim 7 corresponds to claim 5 and depends from claim 6. Claims 6 and 7 should be considered

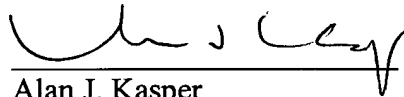
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allowable because of the patentability of their parent claims and the original language of claims 4 and 5.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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